

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-14 (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A process for the synthesis of derivatives compounds having a hydrofluoromethylenesulfonyl radical from an alkyl thiolate, the process comprising the steps of:

- a) ~~condensing~~ reacting in a solvent (1) an alkyl thiolate and an associated cation with (2) a compound exhibiting a carbon of  $sp^3$  hybridization carrying a hydrogen, a fluorine, a heavy halogen~~[[,]]~~ selected from the group consisting of chlorine, bromine and iodine, and an electron-withdrawing group which is fluorine or a group having a Hammett constant ( $\sigma_p$ ) value of at least equal to 0.2, in a solvent; and
- b) oxidizing the compound formed in step a) in the presence of an aqueous phase;

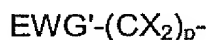
\_\_\_\_\_ said solvent of step a) being a water-immiscible solvent, an aqueous ~~[[phases]]~~ phase or a two-phase combination of a water-immiscible solvent and of an aqueous phase, said aqueous phase comprising at most 1/3 by weight of water-miscible nonaqueous solvent; with a ratio of the amount, in equivalents, of the alkyl sulfide to the amount, in moles, of water being at most equal to 50.

16. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the ~~aqueous-medium~~ solvent of step a) further comprises a strong base, where the pKa of the associated acid is at least equal to 10, in an amount, expressed in equivalents, of at least equal to 5% of the amount of said thiolate.

17. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 16, wherein said amount of strong base is at most equal to the amount of said thiolate.

18. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 16, wherein, in step a), the solvent further contains a polar solvent with a molar ratio of the amount of said polar solvent, expressed in moles, to the sum, expressed in equivalents, of the co-cations of the sulfide and of the base is at most equal to 1.

19. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the electron-withdrawing group is fluorine or a group (Rf) of formula:



wherein:

the X groups, which are identical or different, represent a chlorine, a fluorine or a radical of formula  $\text{C}_n\text{F}_{2n+1}$ , with n being an integer at most equal to 5, with the proviso that at least one of the X groups is fluorine;

p represents an integer at most equal to 2; and

EWG' represents an electron-withdrawing group.

20. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in [[claims 15-19]] claim 19, wherein the total number of carbon atoms in the group Rf is between 1 and 15.
21. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the electron-withdrawing group is fluorine.
22. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the ratio of the water, expressed in moles, to the cation, expressed in equivalents, is at least equal to 4.
23. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 15, wherein said cation is monovalent.
24. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 23, wherein said cation is phosphonium, a quaternary ammonium or an alkali metal.
25. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 15, wherein step b) is carried out either in the presence of a dissociated salt dissolved in the reaction mixture or by maintaining a pH within the range from 4 to 9, in order to obtain an acid halide.
26. (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim 15, wherein the process is carried out at a temperature at least equal to 80°C.